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ANNUAL REPORT OF NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMAN-
ITIES—MESSAGE FROM THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit the 1998 annual report of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the Federal agency charged with advancing knowledge and public education in the humanities. Throughout 1998, the agency provided crucial support to hundreds of research and educational projects throughout the United States and its territories. The Endowment also provided grants to innovative educational projects employing the latest computer technologies, as well as to efforts to preserve library and archival resources and make such resources available to schools, scholars, and citizens.

In 1998, the NEH continued to exercise leadership in applying technology to the humanities. The Endowment launched Schools for a New Millennium, a program that provides funding to schools to further humanities education through the creative use of new technologies. In Lawrence, Kansas, one Schools for a New Millennium project is digitizing photographs and historical documents for use in junior high classrooms. The Endowment also extended its EDSITEment project in partnership with the Council of Great City Schools and MCI WorldCom, more than doubling the number of high quality humanities sites available to students and teachers.

I am especially pleased by another of the agency's partnerships employing both the Internet and traditional broadcasting. The Endowment is partnering with the White House Millennium Council on the presentation of "Millennium Evenings at the White House," a series of showcase events that explore the ideas and creativity of the American people on the eve of a new millennium. These programs feature prominent scholars and creative thinkers and are accessible to the public by satellite and cable broadcasts, and many States humanities councils are coordinating local downlink sites. With support from SUN Microsystems, these lectures and discussions are cybercast live from the East Room in the White House. Viewers can submit questions via the Internet to the guest speaker or to the First Lady and me.

The NEH is well-known for its support of documentary films based on a collaboration between filmmakers and humanities scholars. In 1998, the Endowment maintained this tradition of

excellence with its support of Eleanor Roosevelt, which drew upon outstanding new historical scholarship, archival films, photographs, and firsthand testimonies to paint a vivid portrait of one of America's most outstanding women.

The Endowment's grants also addressed the long-term needs of the Nation's cultural and academic institutions. In 1998, the NEH created a special program designed to aid the Nation's public libraries in serving the public with humanities programming. Among the institutions aided in 1998 by Challenge Grants was the African American Research Library and Cultural Center, a new facility created by the Broward County Public Library to serve Broward County's growing and diverse population.

Through its Preservation Programs, the NEH is preserving the content of hundreds of thousands of brittle books, periodicals, and American newspapers—priceless sources for present and future historians and scholars. The Endowment's initiative to save such materials is now entering its tenth year, and will preserve nearly a million books and periodicals by the time it is completed. The U.S. Newspaper Project, an equally important effort to microfilm historic newspapers, is creating a comprehensive national database for scholars, students, and citizens who wish to research their community's history.

In November 1998, the First Lady and I joined the Endowment in honoring at the White House nine distinguished Americans with the National Medal of the Humanities. Through these awards and its grants programs, the National Endowment for the Humanities recognizes and promotes outstanding efforts to deepen public awareness and understanding of the humanities.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 22, 2000.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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IMPORTANCE OF FILLING OUT
CENSUS FORMS PROPERLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with an important message about the census to members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

While the census will not account for how many people are in the gay and lesbian community, the 2000 Census will count same-sex couples who live together. The census counts unmarried partners, regardless of gender, as well as their children.

Mr. Speaker, the census is the most important source of information about who we are, where we live, what we earn, how we vary by race and ethnicity, and how many children we have. The census numbers matter. They lead to changes in laws and policies that affect all of our lives.

I believe everyone in this Chamber is in agreement that it is important for every American to fill out their census forms and be counted. I do not believe I would be going out on a limb to say we all want people to fill out the forms openly and honestly. So if anyone out there is living with someone else as a couple, you should check "unmarried partner" to describe your relationship.

The category "unmarried partner" appeared for the first time on census forms 10 years ago in 1990. That year, 150,000 households were counted as consisting of same-sex unmarried partners, clearly a severe undercount. Since then, we have seen an unparalleled increase in visibility for members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community, including those in unmarried partnerships. Yet, they are not accounted for.

I applaud the efforts of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute and the Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies. These advocacy organizations are conducting an important national campaign known as "Make Your Family Count," which urges same-sex couples to check the "unmarried partner" box on the census form when describing the relationship of two people from the same sex that are living together.

The campaign is supported by other advocacy groups such as Human Rights Campaign and is receiving a good deal of attention in lesbian and gay news outlets throughout the country. They have also launched a Web site, <http://www.wecount.org>, with information about the census and guidance to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender couples on answering the census forms.

Correcting this lack of accounting is an important step so that we can get an accurate picture of the American population and the current American family. The information is vital to determining congressional representation and funding for various community-oriented programs as well.

I encourage everyone to accurately report to the Census Bureau critical demographic information that can lead to changes in Federal law and policy. Federal law guarantees that your answers will be kept confidential and the Census Bureau has a great record for preserving privacy, so there is no excuse for not being truthful in your response.

You should make your family, you should make your relationships count. You should fill out your census forms. And if you are living with someone to whom you are not married, you should check the box for "unmarried partners." Fill it out today. You will not be sorry.